



African Union  
Commission



African Development  
Bank



Economic Commission  
for Africa

ClimDev-Africa

# THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE IN THE UNFCCC

Tom Owiyo (ACPC)  
and  
George Wamukoya (COMESA)



# Outline

- ▣ Introduction
- ▣ Agriculture in Africa -challenges and opportunities
- ▣ History of negotiations on agriculture
- ▣ Durban outcome
- ▣ Submissions on SBSTA work
- ▣ SBSTA 36 Session outcome
- ▣ Areas of divergence
- ▣ Conclusion

# Introduction

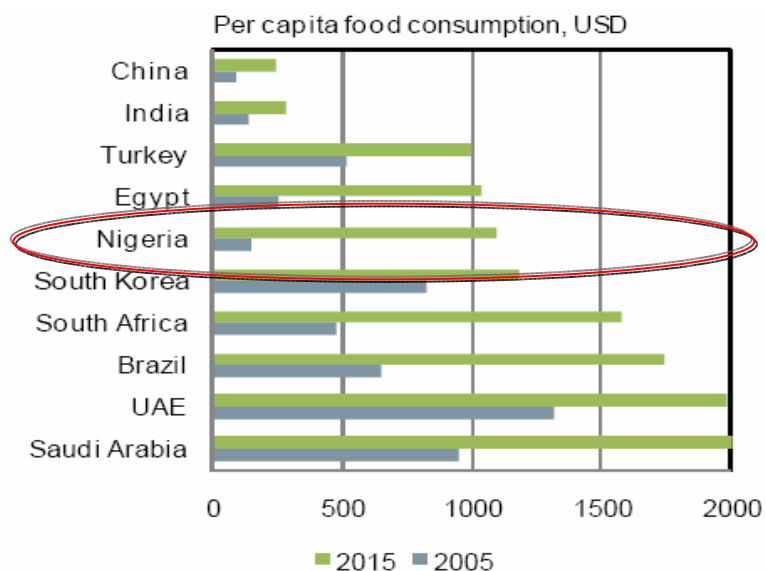
- Average contribution to GDP – 15 %, up to 50 %;
- Persistently underperformed for much of the past half century;
- Between 1998 and 2008, number of hungry people increased by 20%;
- Yield decline: 1967 to 2007, farm output decreased in Africa (by ~30%), increased South Asia (x2) and in East Asia (x3);

# Why the poor performance?

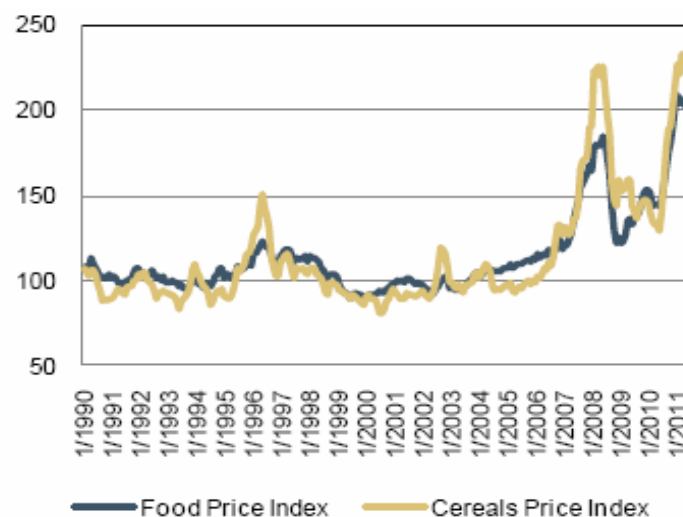
- Low investment by African governments:
  - Africa = 4% of budget; Asia = 14%
- Rain-fed: only 6.5% of African farmland irrigated; Asia = 40%
- Low use of fertilizers per ha = Africa 10 times (10 kg) less world average (110 kg), 20 times less than Europe
- Post harvest grain losses = USD 4 bn/yr (15% of output)
- Other challenges: natural resource degradation (land, soils and soil nutrients); lack of access to credit.

# Opportunities for African agriculture

- Global population – 9 bn by 2050, food production needs to increase by 70% (USD 83 bn annually)
- Rising incomes and changing diets



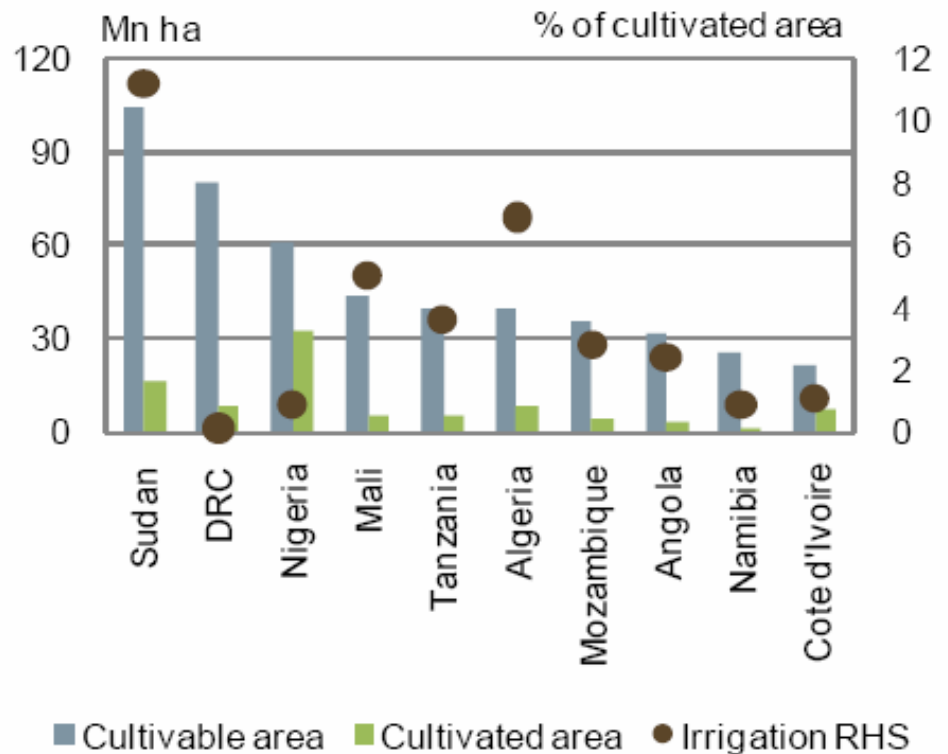
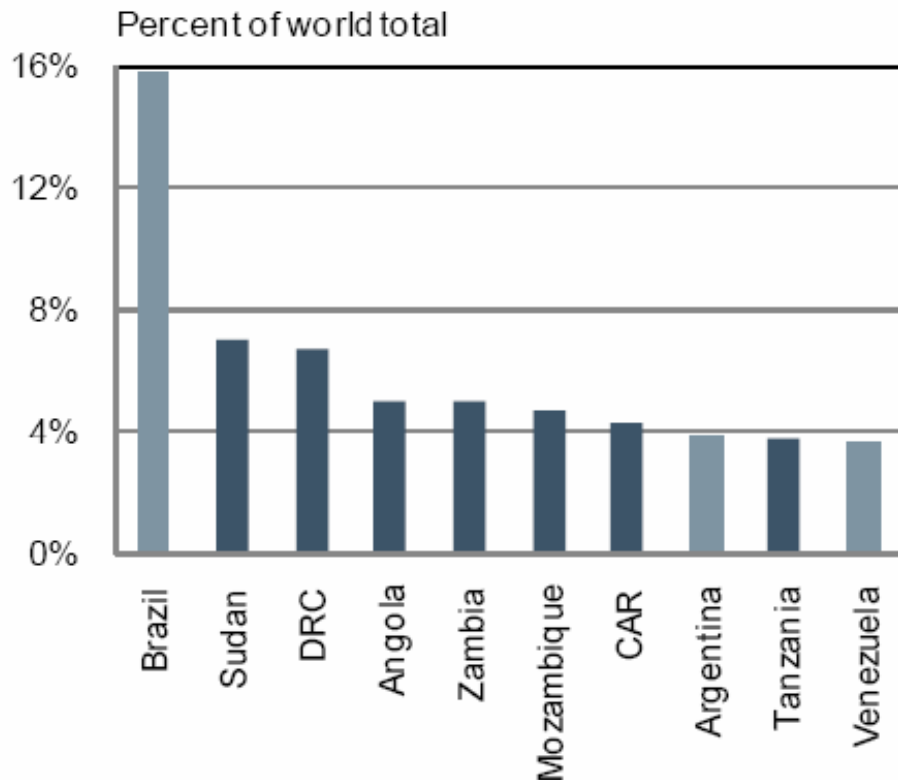
Sources: EIU, Standard Bank Research



Sources: FAO, Standard Bank Research

# Opportunities for African agriculture

- Large untapped agricultural potential – over 60% of cultivable in Africa (31% in Latin America)





# Climate change

# Impact of temperature and rainfall

**Table 1: Marginal Climate Impacts on Net Revenue of Current Farms in Africa**

	Specialised crops (US\$/ha)			Specialised live-stock (US\$/farm)		All farms (\$/ha)
	Africa	Irrigated	Rainfed	Small	Large	
Temperature (°C)	-28.3	33.6	-23.0	108.8	-334.2	-39.2
Precipitation (mm)	2.65	2.08	2.02	-19.6	-64.7	2.02

*Note:* Values are calculated at observed mean levels using estimated regression coefficients.

*Source:* Kurukulasuriya and Mendelsohn (2008), Seo and Mendelsohn (2008) and Seo *et al.* (2008).



# Impact of CC on: irrigated vs rainfed

**Table 3: Simulated Africa-wide CC Impacts of AOGCM Climate Scenarios in terms of Change in Net Revenue for 2020 and 2100**

	Specialised crops (billion US\$)			Specialised livestock (billion US\$)			All farms (% change in net revenue/ha)
	Africa	Irrigated	Rainfed	Africa	Small	Large	
2020							
CCC	-22.4	0.8	-21.4	-2.11	1.79	-3.9	-24.00
PCM	58.7	0.4	57.3	-9.76	0.02	-9.78	46.00
2100							
CCC	-46.8	4.4	-43.5	0.31	16.15	-15.84	-27.00
PCM	69.2	4.6	50.8	-11.06	2.68	-13.74	12.00

Source: Kurukulasuriya and Mendelsohn (2008a), Seo and Mendelsohn (2008) and Seo *et al.* (2008).

# The negotiations at UNFCCC

- ▣ All Parties agree that agriculture is integral under UNFCCC (Art. 2 and 4.1 of the Convention).
- ▣ The agriculture sector plays a critical role in food security, poverty reduction and economic growth (i.e., sustainable development).
- ▣ Agriculture is most vulnerable to climate variability and climate change.
- ▣ The sector is a large emitter of GHGs, responsible for around 14% of global emissions (low contribution from Africa), and has significant potential to sequester .
- ▣ Recognition of the interests of small and marginal farmers and their traditional knowledge and practices.
- ▣ Special nature of agriculture - The link between adaptation and mitigation.

# History of agriculture in the Negotiations

- ▣ **COP 13:** Bali Action Plan 1(b)(iv) – Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector specific actions to implement art. 4.1(c) – mitigation.
- ▣ **Pre-Copenhagen:** Parties agreed on a text that recognized adaptation and mitigation.
- ▣ **Post-Copenhagen:** Parties agreed to protect the agricultural text agreed upon in Copenhagen.
- ▣ EU introduced bunker fuels as part of the equation.
- ▣ Developing countries introduced the need to have a general framework as a preamble to sector specific work.
- ▣ Attempts were made to enhance the scope of REDD+ to include agriculture.
- ▣ Agriculture started featuring in NAMA submissions.

## Reflection of Article 2: Objective

*“The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”*

# Reflection of Article 4

1. All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, shall:
  - (c) *Promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol in all relevant sectors, including the energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management sectors;*
  - (d) *Promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems;*
  - (e) *Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change; develop and elaborate appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas, particularly in Africa, affected by drought and desertification, as well as floods.*

# Durban Outcome

- Negotiations under 1(b)(iv) were complex because of the bunker fuels.
- Three decisions emerged from COP17:
  - Continue considering general framework (2/CP17, para 74).
  - Requested SBSTA to consider issues related to agriculture with the aim of exchanging views and invited parties and observer organizations to make submissions (2/CP17, para 75, 76).
  - Continue considering bunker fuels (2/CP17, para 78)<sub>14</sub>

# Submissions to SBSTA/1

- ▣ Several countries and group of countries made submissions on issues related to agriculture including Africa.
- ▣ Key issues covered in submissions include:
  1. Recognition of the importance of food security.
  2. Work on agriculture need to address adaptation and mitigation as well as synergies and trade offs.

# Submissions to SBSTA/2

3. Recognition of the links between agriculture and poverty reduction and/or livelihoods.
4. Recognition of the importance of small and marginal farmers.
5. Need to enhance international cooperation; build on work of other groups (inside and outside of the UNFCCC).
6. Emphasis on improving agricultural productivity.
7. Identification of state of science (knowledge) and research needs.



# Submissions to SBSTA/3

8. Measurement, metrics and methodologies.
9. Technology transfer and dissemination, including for smallholders.
10. International cooperation on technology and development (R&D) .
11. Capacity needs assessments, capacity building, guidelines and tools.
12. Education and public awareness.
13. Scaling up best practices.

## SBSTA 36 Session/1

- The Secretariat compiled a Misc. document of the submissions to facilitate exchange of views.
- Parties were given opportunity to elaborate on their submissions.
- There was convergence on the importance of agriculture in the UNFCCC process but could not agree on the next steps leading to COP18.

## SBSTA 36 Session/2

*The decision which extended the matter to be considered at Doha reads as follows:*

*“The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) initiated, in accordance with decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 75, an exchange of views on issues relating to agriculture and agreed to continue consideration of this agenda item at its thirty-seventh session.” (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.19).*

## Areas of Divergence

- Focus on adaptation or adaptation and mitigation or adaptation and mitigation synergies and tradeoffs?
- Sequencing between adaptation and mitigation.
- Application of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and Capabilities on the agricultural sector.
- Potential trade implications.

# AMCEN Decisions on Climate Change

- Concluded that sustainable agriculture and food security is one of the overarching priority areas of intervention so as to achieve SD and combat climate change in Africa.
- Recommended that agriculture be addressed within the Adaptation Framework.
- Recommended that a Comprehensive Work Programme on Agriculture for developing non-Annex I Parties be established.
- Reaffirmed the mandate of the AGN to continuously update the African common position based on the guidance encompassed in the key messages document, and emerging scientific understanding and dynamics in the negotiations (Dec. 14/6 – Climate Change para 11).

# Key Considerations

- Prior to Durban, Africa had difficulties negotiating agriculture under cooperative sectoral approaches because it dealt primarily with mitigation issues.
- The Durban decision on agriculture was crafted in a manner that allows broad-based consideration of agriculture sector taking into account art. 4.1c, d and e of the Convention – encompassing adaptation and mitigation.
- SBSTA mandate is to look at scientific and technological aspects and not policy-related issues.
- Integrated / holistic approach to agriculture may be beneficial to Africa – adaptation taking advantage of opportunities in mitigation as co-benefits.
- Need to showcase case studies (evidence) of agricultural practices in Africa that buttress Africa's position on adaptation and/or adaptation and mitigation as a co-benefit.

## Conclusion

*Africa holds the key to a good decision on agriculture in Doha if we adopted a strategic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture – What is the **MUST-HAVE** in Agriculture for Africa?*